



# *The HPD News*

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## HPD Officer Named “TejanoMan of the Year”

Congratulations to Police Officer Israel Gómez, of the Navigation Storefront. Officer Gómez was chosen the 2002 “Houston TejanoMan of the Year” on Saturday, February 16, 2002, during the “Houston Chronicle GoTejanoThon” festivities.

A 20-year HPD veteran assigned to the Navigation Storefront, Officer Gómez is also the president and founder of “Navidad en el Barrio”, a not-for-profit organization established in 1987 which provides a Christmas party each year for thousands of indigent children from Houston’s Hispanic neighborhoods.



**Officer Israel Gomez,**  
**South Central Division**

Officer Gómez’s determination to “make wishes come true”, goes beyond Christmas. His organization provides scholarships and eyeglasses for students. Senior citizens receive oscillating fans during the summer when the Houston heat is especially perilous for them.

In 1997, the program expanded to Laredo and more recently it has been adopted in San Antonio.

This is the second year organizers of the “Houston Chronicle GoTejanoThon” have sought to recognize the work of Tejano heroes and heroines who have contributed to Houston’s Hispanic community. This year, more than 40 nominations were received. Lucy Reyna, founder of Life Center Education and Health Services, was selected “Houston Chronicle TejanoWoman of the Year.” The 2002 “Houston Chronicle TejanoMan and TejanoWoman of the Year” are treated as guests of honor at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Go Tejano Day.

## March on Crime / Lucha Contra el Crimen



For the 18th straight year, the Police Department will be taking part in the “March on Crime / Lucha Contra el Crimen.” The annual event in March helps inform and educate citizens on crime in their neighborhoods as well as provide crime prevention strategies available from HPD. Pictured above, Chief C.O. Bradford accepts a city proclamation from Mayor Lee P. Brown commemorating last year’s March on Crime / Lucha Contra el Crimen.

## In Memoriam

The Houston Police Department lost an officer while on duty in March.

**Officer Keith A. Dees** (Solo Unit) died in a two-vehicle traffic accident on Thursday, March 7, 2002.

The Houston Police Department sends its deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and colleagues.

## Chief's Column

Recently, as part of a series of initiatives to improve coordination and communication among all levels of government and the American public in the fight against terrorism, President George W. Bush signed Homeland Security Presidential Directive 3, creating the Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS).

The Homeland Security Advisory System will provide a framework for the United States Attorney General, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Homeland Security, to assign Threat Conditions, which can apply nationally, regionally, by sector, or to a potential target.

Threat Conditions characterize the risk of terrorist attack and are classified as follows:

- Low Condition: Green – Low risk of terrorist attacks
- Guarded Condition: Blue – General risk of terrorist attack
- Elevated Condition: Yellow – Significant risk of terrorist attacks
- High Condition: Orange – High risk of terrorist attacks
- Severe Condition: Red – Severe risk of terrorist attacks

Additional details regarding the Homeland Security Advisory System and the factors governing the above listed Threat Con-

ditions may be found on the White House Web site at [www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/03.20020312-1.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/03/20020312-1.html).



**Chief of Police C. O. "Brad" Bradford**

Presently, the nation is at an Elevated or Yellow Condition, as this reflects the Homeland Security Council's assessment that there is a significant risk of terrorist attacks. Consequently, since the events of September 11, 2001, the Houston Police Department continues to remain at Alert Status Level I, as defined within the department's Emergency Mobilization Plan.

## Awards Given to Heroes Who Rose Above Allison's Floods

Tropical Storm Allison brought devastating floodwaters to Houston during the second weekend of June 2001. During the crisis, Houstonians saw numerous heroes including several Houston police officers rise to the occasion. Sergeant C.R. Bean and Officer Mike Lumpkin, both of Central Patrol, were recently presented with the department's Meritorious Service Award. One of the criteria for receiving the award is for an officer to "distinguish himself by conduct involving unusual courage."

At the height of Tropical Storm Allison, three men found themselves clinging to a tree near White Oak Bayou after floodwaters rapidly rose around their vehicle. Sergeant Bean and Officer

Lumpkin used a fence as a guide to get to the men. Two of the men survived but the third drowned.

"We could see the fence along the bayou. As long as we could anchor ourselves against something we were in good shape," said Sergeant Bean. "The fence held for a long time." Although one man drowned, Sergeant Bean said that he and Officer Lumpkin would not have done anything differently. Sergeant Bean and Officer Lumpkin were profiled by the Houston Chronicle and in a documentary on The Weather Channel.

Life Saving Awards were also presented to four other Central Patrol officers who assisted in the rescue on White Oak Bayou. In Northeast Patrol, 15 officers and

two sergeants received Life Saving Awards for working around the clock to assure that rescue operations went smoothly in that part of Houston.

### Bulletin Boards

Because of excessive and unauthorized postings throughout the building at 1200 Travis, bulletin boards are now in all of the vendateria areas on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup> floors. Employees are advised that any postings other than on these boards will not be tolerated and appropriate action will be taken against anyone violating this procedure. If you have any questions, call Lieutenant Claude Whitaker (Command Center) at 308-1538.

## HPD Officer Shows Championship Spirit

Houston Police Officer Ronald Schroeder knows the difference between a policeman's 'billy club' and a golf club. Schroeder, the administrative budget coordinator at the L.D. Morrison Police Training Academy, is a 17-year HPD veteran but he is also a professional golfer.

Schroeder began golfing at age ten. He was a member of the two-time NAIA Division II national championship team at Sam Houston State University in 1978 and 1979. A year after that he turned in his golf clubs for a briefcase and was a salesman before turning his interests to law enforcement. Schroeder was a member of the Pasadena Police Department for three years and in 1985 he joined HPD through the Lateral Entry program.

Schroeder has competed in numerous golf tournaments over the years and has the trophies to prove it. Adorning his mantle are trophies from the Oldsmobile National Championships in 1994 and 1999, the Houston Amateur Southern Texas Golf Association tournament in 1992, 1993, 1995, and 2000. He has also been a medal qualifier for eight United States Golf Association events and he is now trying to qualify for the Professional Golf Association's Senior Tour.

## Golf Tournament For HPD Explorers To Be Held in April

The 2002 Law Enforcement Explorers Golf Tournament benefiting the Fondren Storefront's Explorer Post #2461 program will be held on Tuesday, April 16 beginning at 8 a.m. The tournament will be at Cypress Lakes Golf Club at 18700 Cypresswood Drive.

The Houston Police Department's Explorers program began in 1983. The program is affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America and is open to boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 20.

Officer Danny Hardy with the Fondren Storefront says, "We have officers working with these kids teaching them about police work, such as how to handle different scenarios like burglaries, traffic accidents, domestic disturbances and narcotics arrests." Explorer members role-play these types of incidents to get a better understanding of law enforcement.

Money raised at the golf tournament will help fund a trip to Flagstaff, Arizona where Explorer Post #2461 members will compete against other Explorers from around the country in these role-playing exercises and their ability to safely handle such incidents.

For more information about the golf tournament or the Explorer program at HPD, call Officer Hardy at (713) 773-7945.

### HPD Officer Leads Relay for Life

Officer Mark Caronna (Training Division) will lead a group of city employees in the 2002 American Cancer Society's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual 24-hour Relay for Life on April 26 and 27 at the University of Houston. This is Officer Caronna's third year in the relay and his first year as team captain.

Relay for Life began in Tacoma, Washington in 1985 when Dr. Gordy Klatt ran and walked solo around the University of Puget Sound track for 24 hours to raise \$27,000 for cancer research. Since then the event has branched across the United States.

For more information about joining Officer Caronna's team or to make a pledge, call Officer Caronna at the HPD Wellness Center at 1200 Travis at 713-308-1298 or visit [www.choice.net](http://www.choice.net).

## Bowling Them Over Ten Pins at a Time

Officer George A. Mixon (Chief's Administration Office) travels throughout the country each year competing in bowling tournaments. Officer Mixon estimates that he logs about 2,000 miles annually pursuing his bowling passion. "I expect to reach a new mileage record of 25,000 miles when I compete in a tournament in Auckland, New Zealand this fall," said Officer Mixon.

"My passion for bowling began when I was nine years old," said Officer Mixon. "I've been a regular 'striker' ever since!" Although he is not professionally ranked, his high score of 280 (a perfect game is 300) indicates that he could become a serious contender. "Practice, practice, practice," mused Officer Mixon as the reason for his high game. "But because of my primary job and life with HPD, I have not taken on the challenge of entering the Professional Bowlers Tour."



**Officer George A. Mixon will travel to New Zealand for a bowling tournament this fall.**

Officer Mixon has also participated in numerous charity bowling tournaments. "It makes me feel good knowing that I can apply my bowling skills to aid those that can benefit from my efforts," Officer Mixon said. "Keep in mind that bowling is based on the principles of physics and geometry but, most of all, bowling should be fun!"

## In This Corner, "Mr. Explosive" at HPD

Officer David Rougeau works to knock out crime in Houston, but as "Mr. Explosive" his left hook is all he needs to knock out his opponent in the boxing ring.

At 5 feet 6 inches and 140 pounds, Rougeau is licensed by the state of Texas as a Junior Welterweight boxer. His record is currently 1-0.

Rougeau began amateur boxing at age 17. In 1984, he was faced with the decision to pursue a career as a professional boxer or join the Houston Police Department. He discussed his choices with his grandparents.

"This (police work) was a sure shot," he said. "In boxing there are no guarantees."

Rougeau continued to box off and on during his 16 years at HPD, but did not become a professional boxer until the age of 38.

"Getting back in shape was pretty difficult," he said. "I had some doubts, but it seems like it was well worth the effort."

At an age when most boxers are hanging up their gloves, Rougeau had to overcome a few obstacles before getting in the ring.

"Because of my age I had to take an additional series of tests to get licensed," he said. "I always felt I would be able to do pretty well if I could just buckle down and give it a shot."

Rougeau was given the name "Mr. Explosive" by his trainer.

"I'm a pretty calculating type of fighter," he said. "At any moment I'm liable to explode."

Rougeau is scheduled to fight in the George Foreman Boxing Gala IV in April.

Rougeau, who turns 39 in July, reflects on his latest career move: "I'm doing it for the love of the sport and see how far I can go so that when I get up in age, I won't have any regrets."